

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 ACDA-19 RSR-01

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R 190825 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

USFJ, FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAVFOR JAPAN

OAC FORT BUCKNER JAPAN

CDR THIRD MARDIV OKINAWA

CDR MARCORB CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA

SECDEF, WASHDC

UNCLASS NAHA 258

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: CRITICISM IN PRESS OF HANDLING OF KIN BLUE BEACH TANK INCIDENT

REF: NAHA 176

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OKINAWA VERNACULAR PRESS SURFACED MAY 25 USMC INTERIM REPORT ON STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF KIN BLUE BEACH TANK INCIDENT, WHICH KILLED ONE WOMAN, WITH FRONTPAGE CLAIMS OF UNANIMOUS OKINAWAN REACTIONS AGAINST HANDLING OF CASE BY USG/ GOJ. VARIOUS

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PARTY STATEMENTS RANGED FROM DEMANDS GOJ ASSUME PRIMARY JURISDICTION AND INSIST ON ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO VICTIM'S FAMILY TO APPEALS TO ABOLISH SECURITY TREATY AND ELIMINATE BASES. GOJ PUBLIC PROSECUTOR YASUDA'S REPORTED STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT EVEN GOJ WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROSECUTE MEN INVOLVED UNDER CRIMINAL LAW MAY BE USEFUL IN DAMPING DOWN EXPRESSED PRESS AND POLITICAL INDIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. OKINAWAN VERNACULAR PRESS JUNE 17 & 18 FRONTPAGED REPORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT USMC HAD DECIDED THAT MEN INVOLVED IN KIN BLUE BEACH TANK INCIDENT WERE NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF WOMAN. USMC REPORT IN QUESTION WAS MAY 25 INTERIM REPORT OF INCIDENT INVESTIGATION IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM ISHIKAWA POLICE, WHO ARE

3. ACCORDING PRESS, ALL OKINAWA POLITICAL PARTIES AND PEOPLE OUTRAGED AT REPORT, WHICH IGNORES OKINAWA PREFECTURE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION PROTESTING INCIDENT, REQUESTING TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION TO GOJ, AND DEMANDING ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO VICTIM' S FAMILY. MORE MODERATE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, OKINAWA SOCIAL MASSES PARTY, AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY STATEMENTS CONCENTRATED ON QUESTIONS OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY,

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TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION TO GOJ, AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO VICTIM' S FAMILY. OKINAWA PEOPLE' S PARTY, OKINAWA SOCIALIST PARTY AND KOMEITO CALLED FOR QTE EXTIRPATION OF PROBLEM UNQTE BY ABOLISHING SECURITY TREATY AND ELIMINATING ALL BASES IN OKINAWA.

4. BRIGHT NOTE IN PRESS COVERAGE WAS GOJ PUBLIC PROSECUTOR YASUDA' S STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT QTE EVEN IF GOJ HAD JURISDICTION, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IN VIEW OF ACCIDENT' S CIRCUMSTANCES AND AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, TO INDICT MEN INVOLVED FOR VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL LAW UNQTE. HE ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT USMC HAD NOT YET COMPLETED INVESTIGATION.

5. VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS DRAFTING PROTEST RESOLUTIONS AND EXPECT THEIR PRESENTATION WILL KEEP ISSUE ALIVE OVER COMING DAYS.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Subject:** CRITICISM IN PRESS OF HANDLING OF KIN BLUE BEACH TANK INCIDENT  
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CDR MARCORB CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA  
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